

LEITGEBIA AND RORAIMANTHUS

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The genus *Leitgebia* was established by Eichler in 1871 to include a small shrub of heathlike aspect, *L. guianensis* Eichl., originally collected on the high savannas near Mount Roraima by Schomburgk. Eichler's description is accompanied by a plate. His description is accompanied by a plate and the two together leave little doubt as to the structure of the floral organs. Its characteristic features, at least in contrast to other plants to be mentioned below, are the presence of five staminodes which are inserted between the stamens and in a continuous circle with them, clawed at base, spatulate and flattened at summit, and the ovoid ovary, blunt at the top, 1-celled, with a few (6-8) ovules attached at the base, terminated by a very slender style.

Some years later Oliver added a second species, *Leitgebia imThurniana*, collected on the summit and upper levels of Roraima by im Thurn and recently re-collected there by Tate. Oliver called attention to the specific characters which separate the two very clearly, but apparently failed to see or to comprehend the generic significance of certain other structures. In Oliver's species the five staminodes are quite separate from the stamens, but are connate with each other, forming a short sheath outside the stamens; each of the five is elongate, surpassing the anthers, petaloid, spatulate, and more or less involute. The ovary is conic, tapering gradually into the stout style, 3-celled, with several ovules in each locule. There is no doubt that it represents a distinct genus, which is here proposed.

RORAIMANTHUS gen. nov. Folia conferta praesertim terminalia, stipulis alte fimbriatis. Flores axillares pedicellati. Sepala 5 imbricata. Petala 5 obovata rosea vel alba. Staminodia 5 inter petala et stamina inserta basi connata staminibus alterna, lobis erectis petaloideis spathulatis involutis. Filamentia brevia. Antherae lineariae erectae filamenta excedentes. Ovarium 3-loculare multiovulatum conicum in stylum elongatum angustatum.

A shrub of ericoid aspect, the small leaves crowded at the summit of the branches. Leaf-blades obovate-oblong, thickened at the margin, crenate near the apex, with ascending branched lateral veins. Stipules persistent, deeply fringed. Flowers 5-merous; axillary among the upper leaves, short-pedicelled. Staminodia 5, connate at base into a short membranous tube surrounding the base of the stamens, the lobes alternate with the stamens, erect, membranous, petala-

loid, spatulate, involute. Stamens 5 with short filaments and linear-subulate anthers. Ovary conic, 3-celled with numerous ovules, gradually tapering into the subulate style. Stigma punctiform.

RORAIMANTHUS IMTHURNIANUS comb. nov. (*Leitgebia imthurniana* Oliver) Endemic, so far as known, to the summit and upper levels of Mount Roraima

A NEW ELEPHANTOPUS FROM BRAZIL

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ELEPHANTOPUS ERECTUS sp. nov. Herbaceus circa 6 dm. altus, caulibus densiter pilosis foliaceis; folia 6 vel 7 utrinque densiter pubescentia leviter crenato-serrata, inferiora 15 cm. longa 4 cm. lata oblongo-oblancoolata subacuta ad basin cuneata in petiolum brevem, superiora minora usque ad 5 cm. longa 2 cm. lata sessilia basi rotundata; spicae 2 terminales erectae circa 3 dm. longae densiter pubescentes, infra medium steriles bracteis 1 vel 2 parvis ovatis; glomeruli sessiles et spicati 9-12; bractee numerosae, exteriores ovato-lanceolatae usque ad 2 cm. longae, interiores gradatim angustiores et breviores, intimae lineari-subulatae capitula aequantes, omnes densiter sericeae; capitula 4-6 in quoque glomerulo; involucrium 11 mm. altum, squamis 4 exterioribus 5.5 mm. longis ovato-lanceolatis acutis ad apicem minute sericeis, interioribus 4 11 mm. longis linearibus apicem versus sericeis; achaenia 4 lineari-clavata 4.5 mm. longa densiter hirsuta; pappi setae 5 vel 6, 2-2.5 mm. longae laeves planae e basi ad apicem angustatae.

Type, number 16231, collector not stated (Glaziou?), from Estc. Fortaleza, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 29 Apr. 1899, in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden. It is obviously related to *E. hirtiflorus* DC., and differs in its denser pubescence, much larger and broader serrate leaves, more numerous spicate heads, and shorter pappus.